

The Daily Ardmoreite.

VOLUME V

ARDMORE, INDIAN TERRITORY. MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 15, 1898.

NUMBER 247

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Will open the school year of 1898-1899, on Thursday, the 1st of September. Thursday, Friday, the 1st and 2d of September, will be occupied in the examination of pupils, in order to determine the grade they will be admitted to, and to permit classes to open on the following Monday. The rates for day pupils will vary from \$10.00 to \$20.00 a month, according to the grade the pupil will occupy. Music if taken will be charged at the rate of \$4.00 a month extra. When more than two children from the same family are pupils of the Academy, a reduction will be made.

No child under six years of age will be admitted. Boys from six years of age and over, will be admitted so long as they remain docile and show no sign of insubordination. When they become unruly they will be quietly dropped from the rolls of the Academy.

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The Right Reverend Theophilus Meersch, D. D., Bishop of the Diocese, has the school under his personal supervision, and will guarantee the people of Ardmore and of the Chickasaw nation, a school second to none in the south.

Music, painting and drawing, and in fact, all the branches taught in a first-class Academy will also be taught in St. Agnes' Academy of Ardmore.

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ARDMORE, I. T.

PERTINENT POINTS

On Curtis Bill and Atoka Treaty b. S. W. Peel, Attorney for the Chickasaws at Washington.

Setting forth a few plain reasons why the Choctaws and Chickasaws should vote to ratify the agreement made at Atoka, Indian Territory, between their government and the United States, at the coming election as assembled by congress:

ALLOTMENT OF LANDS.

The allotment of your lands is perhaps the most important part of your local affairs.

CURTIS LAW.

Under the Curtis law your lands will be allotted by a commission all of whom will be citizens of the United States, you will have no say or voice in the matter and when allotted, you will have nothing but a claim, you will have no title more than you have now. Should you find yourself land poor, as many of you doubtless will, you must remain so, for you can't sell a foot of it. The title will remain in all the Indians and United States under the Curtis law, as it is called. All leases for your valuable coal oil, asphalt, or other mineral will be made by the secretary of the interior; he may be a good man and he may not, they are changed every four years and many times oftener, frequently every few months, he may be Bill Jones to-day and Bill Smith to-morrow, you will never know, the rate of royalty fixed by him at his pleasure.

TOWN SITES.

Under the Curtis law your town first to be incorporated. A town commission is to be created, the town to be represented on said commission, the commission to lay out the town and appraise the lot; should they fail to agree on the value of any lot, then the secretary of the interior to fix it. Owners of improvement allowed to purchase any and all lots at 50 cents on the dollar of their appraised value, ten months after appraisal owner of the improvements may purchase, and in two months pay 10 per cent of the 50 per cent, and in six months 15 per cent more, balance in three annual installments, all money on town lots to be paid into treasury of the United States to stand as a tender to the tribe, the tribe can take it or not. This is a little less than direct confiscation and an insult to a free people, and ought not to be tolerated. It will be observed that under the Curtis law all moneys arising from the sale of town lots and royalty on minerals goes to the tribe, no exception made, now if the Freedmen are enrolled as citizens and lands allotted to them as such, we ask are they not members of the tribe and as such members entitled to their share of the money derived from that source?

JURISDICTION.

Under the Curtis law if an Indian citizen is indicted in the United States court in the Territory for homicide (killing any person) he must stay and stand his trial though local prejudice may be very great, not so under the agreement.

CONTINUANCE OF INDIAN GOVERNMENTS.

Under the Curtis law your governments are at the mercy of congress, may be wiped out in a day and a territorial government established over you. The president would appoint a governor, secretary of state authorize the election of a Territorial legislature by all the people, then your troubles would begin and all kinds of annoyances to you would follow. No wise and prudent Choctaw or Chickasaw will want this law. But you will have it unless you ratify the agreement as amended by congress. Having pointed out some of the objections to the Curtis law as it is called, I will with your permission try to show some of the advantages the late agreement as amended by congress will be to you if ratified.

AGREEMENT AS AMENDED—ALLOTMENT.

The allotment of your lands as stated before is the most important question of all your local affairs.

Under the agreement each nation is to have a representative of its own on the commission to make the allotment to you so you will have some voice in that important work. The grading and appraisement of the lands for allotment is the very basis of a fair and just allotment and when so allotted it will be permanent. When completed the executives of the two nations are required by their deed under the seal of their respective tribes to convey

to each allottee a full and perfect title to his or her allotment then you will know what is yours. In taking allotment each person will take 160 acres covering his or her house and improvements as a homestead this much cannot be sold for 21 years from date of patent, after that time expires you can sell or not as you like, the balance may be sold by allottee if of age and otherwise competent for a fair price to be paid as follows: 1-4 in one year after date of patent, 1-4 in three years and balance in five years after patent, this you may do or not as you like. In all cases of sale a fair price must be paid. And under the agreement allotments are to be made to orphans, convicts and incompetents, this is not provided for at all in the Curtis law. Each allottee is to be placed in actual possession of his allotment and all objectionable persons to the allottee removed therefrom. The government of the United States to pay all expenses.

TOWN SITES.

Under the agreement the towns in each nation are to be laid off and platted by a commission, each nation to have one member of its own on that commission to guard the nation's interest. This commission will appraise the lots, less the improvements, the owner of the improvements may purchase one residence lot and one business lot at 50 cents on the appraised value, all other lots to be sold at 62 1-2 cents of the appraised value, the money arising from the sale of all town lots to be paid into the United States treasury for the use of the Indians (freedmen excepted). Under the Curtis law it will go to the tribe, freedmen and all when lots are sold, at the end of one year all money to be paid out to the Indians per capita by an officer of the United States.

COAL OIL ASPHALT, ETC.

Under the agreement all coal oil, asphalt or other mineral to be reserved from allotment and to be leased for a royalty under the supervision of two trustees, one to be appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the principle chief of the Choctaw nation, the other to be appointed by the president upon the recommendation of the governor of the Chickasaw Nation, each to give bond for the faithful performance of his duty; to be removed by the president for cause, rate of royalty is fixed in the agreement, this most valuable property to be reserved and money collected by these two trustees and paid into the treasury of the United States to be used to educate Choctaw and Chickasaw children by blood, no freedmen in it. The Curtis law gives it to the tribe, freedmen and all.

This magnificent property will produce revenue enough to educate most thoroughly every Choctaw and Chickasaw child now born or that may be born for twenty years or more, thereby fit them to compete with all persons in the great race of life, it is too good to lose.

JURISDICTION.

Under the Curtis law if an Indian is indicted in the United States court for homicide (killing any person) he must stay and be tried in that court although great local prejudice may exist there against him, but under the agreement if so indicted he can file his affidavit with the clerk of the court to the effect that he cannot get a fair trial in that court, then the court is bound to send his case to the United States court at Fort Smith, Arkansas, or Paris, Texas, for trial. This is much better than the Curtis law for the Indian.

CONTINUANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Under the Curtis law your governments are at the mercy of congress, can wipe you out in a day. Under the agreement they must stand for eight years and perhaps longer, until you are ready to come in as a state of the union and thereby dodge the perplexities of a Territorial government. It is plainly seen that the intention of the United States is that with changed conditions as this agreement will make that there will be no necessity for further change until the tribes are all ready for statehood.

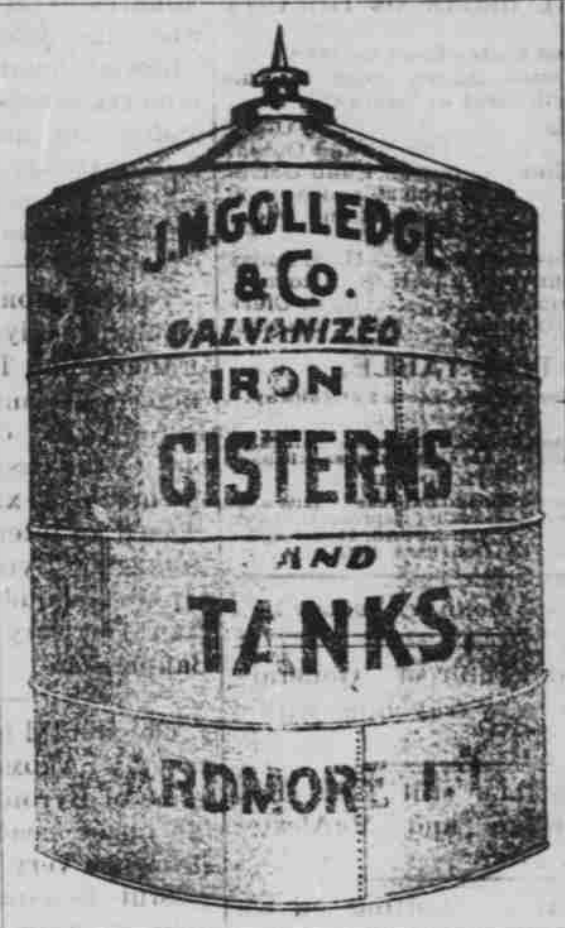
BALANCE OF LEASED DISTRICT.

The Curtis law makes no provisions whatever for the settlement and payment to the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations for this large amount of country, that leaves you just where you are and have been for a long time; does not propose to pay a cent for it, while under the agreement as amended by congress binds the government of the United

Continued on page 4.

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